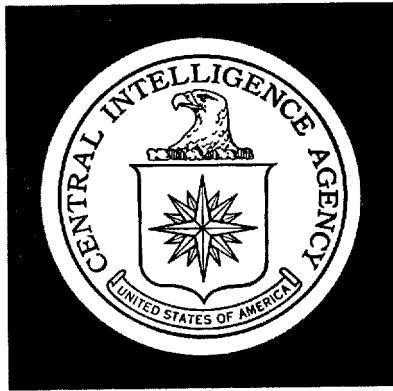


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West Germany - UK: The British have recently offered to station permanently in West Germany an infantry brigade which had been brought back home in 1967. According to a high Bonn Defense Ministry official, the offer is contingent, however, on Bonn's agreeing to match the entire foreign exchange costs of maintaining British forces in West Germany through offsetting purchases from the UK. Bonn appears likely to spurn the offer, especially because acceptance would complicate the current offset negotiations with the US, in which the Germans are offering to offset roughly 80 percent of foreign exchange losses. Bonn also fears that acceptance would ease the pressure on the Canadians not to reduce their forces in Europe.

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